

Blandford Allotment Society
www.blandfordallotments.com
Minutes of meeting held at the Lamperd's Field Potting Shed
On Wednesday 20th June 2018 at 7 pm
Chaired by: Ian Ricketts

Present: Ian Ricketts – Chair, Barbara Marjoram – Vice Chair, John Harding – Treasurer, Ann Edwards – Social Secretary/Minute Taker, Ken Pearce – Plot Allocator. Diane Mawer – Plot Allocator. Peter Brundish – Committee Member, Phil Williams – Elizabeth Road.

Apologies for absence from Pat Richardson, Craig Whelan, Dave Buchan

1. The Minutes of the meeting dated 16th May 2018 were read and approved. The walkabout had not been done. This will be done shortly. The walkabout at Elizabeth Road had been done. The clean up there had also been done.

2. REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman/Facebook – Ian Ricketts

The work party had erected the rabbit fencing and posts on Sunday 20th May, which was really successful.

Ian reported on the meeting with the Town Council, which he and John had attended on 5th June. This was the yearly meeting to agree annual rents. The Town Council would like to be informed of Committee Meetings in case they wish to attend. Ian will forward a copy of the minutes to them. It was agreed that the rent from September 2018 for Lamperds Field will be increased by 3%, resulting in a cost of £36.00 per full allotment site of 250 sq metres and pro rata for smaller allotments. Due to the possible move of the allotments, it was agreed that the rent will be frozen at £36.00 per 250 sq.m for 2019/20. Rent for Elizabeth Road payable from September 2017 was 19p per square metre. There will be an increase in rent to 20p per square metre (1p increase) from September 2018. It was explained that Elizabeth Road are non-statutory and that the District Council could discontinue the lease at any time. John stated that the increase at Elizabeth Road was because of an increase in water usage. Clr Galpin requested that there should be an asset register. Ian and John will be doing this in the next few days and John will prepare an inventory for the AGM in September. John will provide a copy of the finalized accounts at the end of June to the Town Council. The Chairman reported to the Town Council that the following works had been carried out:

- a. New water tops for several of the water troughs.
- b. New rabbit fencing along the full length of the Letton Park boundary.
- c. Trees backing onto Letton Park had been felled by the Town Council. All tidying up and making good had been done.
- d. The Town Council had carried out all standard works, e.g. Legionella testing, fire alarm service, fire exit service and PAT testing.
- e. Review of Agreements –
 - (i) It was agreed that the social secretary will delete email addresses if allotment holders give up their plot. **Action: Ann**
 - (ii) Allotment Management Agreement – The AMC (Allotment Management Committee) have agreed for the Agreement to be amended to include the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) paragraph.
 - (iii) Tenancy Agreement – It was agreed to include the GDPR paragraph.
 - (iv) Elizabeth Road/Philip road – It was agreed to include the GDPR paragraph on the letter for these plot holders. **Action: Ian/John**

(b) Report from Vice Chair/Seed Secretary – Barbara Marjoram

Barbara had nothing to report.

(c) Report from Treasurer – John Harding

The bank balance stands at £1241.85 – this after paying £22.48 for the water bill for Elizabeth Road, 6 months to 15th May and £146 for new water trough plus fittings, which will be repaid from the ring-fence fund. The true balance therefore being £1387.85, with petty cash standing at £94.57. John raised a cheque for £10 as a gesture for the donated refrigerator.

We recently reported the accounts to the end of May to the Town Council and there were no queries from them, apart from a request to also show some indication of our assets on the form. (John and Ian will list assets together on Tuesday 26th June.) This will also be done for the final end of year accounts on 30th June, in order to report to our AGM.

Action John/Ian

The rent we pay to the council will be increased this year by 3% in line with Town Council Budgets which will take the rent due in October to £433.12 plus VAT. The actual amount we pay is well over £1000, the extra being due to our annual contribution to the ring-fence fund.

The garden rent at Lamperd's Field is increased this year to £36.00 per full allotment, part plots being pro rata. Rents are set one year in advance, so this fee was set last year. We did agree with the Council that there would be no increase next year in view of the uncertainty of our tenure.

The rent for Elizabeth Road will be increased by 1p per square metre to 20p per square metre.

The National Allotment Society contribution is increased to £3.00 and is a statutory payment per allotment holder. This is the correct fee at present but could be raised by the time we come to pay it. In fact this year we have subsidised everyone to the tune of 50p.

(d) Report from the Plot Allocators – Ken Pearce/Diane Mawer

Just recently two quarter plots had been given out to two inexperienced ladies. It is hoped that they will be welcomed and plot holders will be happy to give any advice they might need. 8 half plots are empty. We have plenty of overgrown plots. It was agreed to do a walkabout, identify plot holders and Ian will telephone them before issuing a yellow card.

Action: Ken/Diane/Ian

(e) Report from Phil Williams, Elizabeth Road

Phil said that several allotments at Elizabeth Road are still overgrown. There had been some improvement regarding dog bins. Ian agreed to meet up on site with Phil on Thursday 21st at 2 pm, when the tap can be attended to at the same time. It might be possible to do a walk around on Tuesday 26th June, the work party day.

Action: Phil/Ian

(f) Report from the Webmasters – Pat Richardson/Craig Whelan

No report.

(g) Upkeep of allotments – Dave Buchan

No report.

(h) Report from Social Secretary – Ann Edwards

The sun shone on the coffee morning on Saturday 2nd June. There were about 25 allotment holders present and Mike Holloway's fascinating talk on "Sensory Gardens" was well received. He urged people to take a look at the Woodhouse Gardens Sensory Garden, which he is responsible for, close to the Pavilion itself. The barbecue was discussed. Details were agreed, including that a marquee and gazebo will be erected on the morning of the 8th July. Also, that there would be an extra meeting between Ian, John, Barbara, Ann (and anyone else interested) to talk about and finalise details, e.g. ordering of meats, etc. on **WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY AT 2 PM at Lamperd's Field.**

EVENTS

- Saturday 7th July Coffee Morning at 11 am - Malcolm Fowler "Making Mead"
Sunday 8th July FREE ANNUAL BARBECUE at 2 pm at Lamperd's Field.
Saturday 4th Aug. Coffee Morning at 11 am - Bring your favourite Recipe for courgettes or beetroot, plus a taster dish.
Saturday 1st Sept. Coffee Morning at 11 am - A chance to chat with your Committee, with the usual coffee morning refreshments and raffle. (Ready for the AGM on Friday 28th September at 6.30 pm in the Corn Exchange.)
Friday 28th Sept. AGM at 6.30 pm - the Corn Exchange in Blandford Forum.
Saturday 6th Oct. Coffee Morning at 11 am - Vlad Gore "Apple Pressing and More" - Bring apples **Action: Ann**

Scarecrows can be made and put up any time. Judging 1st September. See the notice board for "How to make a scarecrow" or the link <https://www.diynetwork.com/how-to/make-and-decorate/crafts/making-a-scarecrow>

Craig and Phil - photos to Craig please - **Action: Phil, Craig.**

(i) Report from Committee Member – Peter Brundish **Action: Peter**
Peter will be doing more clearing and strimming. Wheelbarrow wheels/tyres had been mended.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ian had spoken to Dave Miles concerning the day for plot judging. He has agreed to do it the first week in July.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 25th July at 7 pm.

5. The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

(Ann Edwards – 23rd June 2018)